

Express Mail Label No. EF 132182188US

WE CLAIM:

1. A valve comprising a housing having an inlet and space therefrom an outlet, a passageway extending between the inlet and the outlet, and means located in the passageway for controlling the flow of a fluid between the inlet and the outlet, the means including a valve assembly movable between a first open position spaced from a co-operating valve seat and a second closed position at which the valve assembly sealingly engages the valve seat, in which magnetic means is provided for biasing the valve stem assembly towards the second closed position.
2. The valve as claimed in Claim 1 in which at least a portion of the valve assembly is in the form of or incorporates a permanent magnet and a further magnet is located adjacent the valve seat.
3. The valve as claimed in Claim 2 in which the further magnet is a permanent magnet.
4. The valve as claimed in Claim 2 in which the further magnet is an electro-magnet.
5. The valve as claimed in Claim 1 in which the valve seat is made of magnetic material.
6. The valve as claimed in Claim 1 in which the valve assembly includes a spherical seal pad which sealingly engages the valve seat in the second closed position of the valve assembly.

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7. The valve as claimed in Claim 1 in which the valve assembly depends from a valve cap made from magnetic material, which valve cap is sealingly attached to the housing.

8. The valve as claimed in Claim 7 in which an electro-magnet is unincorporated within or on the valve cap.

9. The valve as claimed in Claim 7 in which a magnetic sleeve depends from the valve cap and surrounds the valve assembly.

10. The valve as claimed in Claim 7 in which the valve assembly includes a shock absorber.

11. The valve as claimed in Claim 9 in which a polymer bush is provided which surrounds that portion of the valve assembly within the valve cap.

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